

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Obed Sierra , I am a Student from Stamford .

I stand in support of S.B. No. 284: "AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS," with clear language that extends eligibility to all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

This issue matters to me because it could of been a lot help when I was younger and now it could be really helpful to Undocumented Ct residents b/c it could help them access healthcare that otherwise they dont have and help them save cost by avoiding emergency services that could cripple them in debt.

I have seen this issue affect my life and family and community many times. Unfortunately, recently a family member was very hesitant and did not receive preventative healthcare because he was scared and aware of the high cost and the stress that it could bring by him attending the emergency room. Recently, this family member had an episode of Diabetic Ketoacidosis and was still hesitant in receiving help because of the high cost. After two days of the symptoms of the Diabetic Ketoacidosis we actually had to force him to go to the emergency services and when we did bring him in the doctors were glad we brought him in because it was a very severe and delicate episode that could have cost him his life. This story is one that is often repeated with family members and community members and friends. In which they are hesitant to receive very needed healthcare to prevent the high cost.

This bill will help me, my family and community because it would allow more people in my community to have access to healthcare that is necessary.

I support S.B. No 284, with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status, and I ask the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Obed Sierra